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Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001200050006-3

4 May 1960

NSC BRIEFING

SOUTH KOREA

- I. Continued student restiveness faces the Huh Chung government with problem of how to maintain law and order during period in which decisions on new form of government and elections are being made.
  - A. Renewed peaceful demonstrations at Pusan, Seoul, and other cities calling for election of a new National Assembly emphasize the uncertainty as to whether the students and populace are willing to accept amendment of the constitution by discredited incumbent National Assembly.
    1. Majority of assemblymen are members of Rhee's discredited Liberal party, stigmatized by association with regime's repression and vulnerable to charges they won their seats by illegal election tactics.
  - B. Factional maneuvering and political bickering in National Assembly over relative powers of new prime minister and cabinet may aggravate political instability if Assembly appears to be trying to circumvent or delay clean sweep of old regime.
  - D. General public now seems to desire return to normal conditions and allow caretaker cabinet the opportunity to redress grievances and clean up corruption.
    1. Use of force by police and army against students might again cause public to join students against government.

DOCUMENT NO. 3  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. II  
DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS, SC  
DATE REVIEW DATE: 10/26/00  
AUTH: HR 70-2

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001200050006-3

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- II. Acting president Huh has initiated steps to reform police, revise local government legislation to make such government responsible to the people, and clean up graft in the economy.
- A. Huh's order to return Japanese fishermen who have completed their sentences, relax enforcement of the Rhee line, and admit Japanese newsmen to Korea will open way for improving relations with Japan.

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